

MIDD Crisis Diversion Center
Update for MIDD Oversight Committee
August 26, 2010

The Crisis Diversion Center is actually three linked programs making up strategy 10b of the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Plan (MIDD). The linked programs are a Crisis Diversion Facility (CDF) where police and other first responders may refer adults in crisis for evaluation and referral to appropriate community based services, a Crisis Diversion Interim Services Facility (CDIS) which will serve as a place where people leaving the CDF who are homeless may receive up to two weeks of further stabilization and linkage to housing and services, and a Mobile Crisis Team that will respond to police to provide on-site evaluation and crisis resolution as well as linkage to the CDF.

Program Goal

This strategy seeks to improve the lives of those impacted by mental illness and substance abuse by providing therapeutic alternatives in the community resulting in reduced admissions to jails, hospital emergency departments and psychiatric hospital inpatient units.

Background

- King County started the Criminal Justice Initiatives in 2003 with \$2 million and funded a number of programs to help people get assessed and released from jail with housing and services. There was not enough money for pre-booking diversion programs.
- When the 1/10% sales tax was being explored for King County, Crisis Diversion was identified by numerous stakeholders as one of the most important components of the plan.
- Once the MIDD was approved by the King County Council, intensive planning for the strategy with representatives from police, courts, hospitals, jails, mental health consumers and advocates, community providers and others occurred from April 2008 to February 2009.
- Workgroups were convened and workgroup members visited crisis facilities around Washington State (Yakima, Skagit, Whatcom, Pierce and Spokane) as well as San Antonio, Texas. County staff extensively researched the literature on crisis and jail diversion.
- County staff developed draft recommendations and presented them to the MIDD Oversight Committee, and after comments were received more meetings were held to refine the model.
- Special thanks to Ian Goodhew, Deputy Chief of Staff for the King County Prosecutor, for developing the legal parameters and eligibility criteria for the program, and to Darcy Jaffe from Harborview for drafting medical exclusionary criteria.
- A request for proposal was released in August, 2009 and Downtown Emergency Services Center (DESC) was selected for the CDIS program. A decision was made to rebid the other components.
- A revised RFP was released in March, 2010. In early July, DESC was announced as the successful bidder for the CDF and Mobile Crisis Teams.

Target Population

Adults (18 and older) in crisis in the community who might otherwise be brought to a hospital emergency department or arrested for minor crimes and taken to jail will be targeted.

Exclusionary criteria for admission will include criminal charge/criminal history criteria and medical/behavioral criteria, as recommended by target population workgroups.

Location

DESC is proposing to co-locate all three components of the Crisis Diversion Strategy at a site they have secured in the city of Seattle, with easy access to I-5 and I-90 and not far from the King County Correctional Facility and Harborview. They have named their site the Crisis Solutions Center.

Timeline for Implementation

- September 2010: MHCADSDS will hire a Program Manager to coordinate and monitor the Crisis Diversion Services (CDS) and Crisis Intervention Training strategies, staff the MIDD Oversight Committee CDS strategy sub-committee.
- August 2010-January 2011:
 - Each successful proposer is expected to be at full staffing capacity, including location and licensure and certification requirements met, no later than six (6) months from the date the contract is executed.
 - Start-up phase: policies and procedures developed in partnership with the MIDD OC CD strategy sub-committee and provider, provider works on neighborhood notification, permitting, zoning and other related siting requirements. Building remodeled to meet licensing and program requirements for the facility. Staff hired and fully trained prior to opening facility.
 - Public information campaign developed and begins in coordination with MIDD strategy10a Crisis Intervention Training project.
- February 2011: Crisis Diversion Services open.